

ORIG: Minutemen
PERS: Hyatt, James C.

Minutemen Could Give Lessons To James Bond in Super Secrecy

By James C. Hyatt

Special to The Washington Post

HOUSTON—For techniques of super secrecy, James Bond might take lessons from the "Minutemen," the ultra-rightists training for the day "when Americans will once again fight in the streets for their lives and their liberty."

A recent letter to their home office, P.O. Box 68, Norborne, Mo., brought this packet:

- A plain outer envelope, postmarked from Richmond, Mo., with no return address.

- An inner assortment of material wrapped in a heavy gray sheet of mimeograph paper to prevent "your mail from being read by infrared cameras."

- A membership application form, "Classification: SECRET," and a return stamped envelope addressed to "Biolab Corporation, Norborne, Mo."

- On a letterhead marked with the outline of a 1776 Minuteman with long rifle in one hand, Robert B. DePugh, National Coordinator, advised by form letter:

"... Our members have long ago learned the futility of trying to 'wake people up' and of writing to disinterested Congressmen. We are the only organization in America that is actively fighting communism right now.

"This is not a job for amateurs. It requires not only dedication to the cause of liberty but the willingness to study and train until we reach a degree of skill by which our members can compete with the Communists on their own terms."

By sending in the application and \$5, applicants may expect to be accepted as "provisional members." Full members must complete a "correspondence training course in the scientific principles of underground warfare."

pective members the Minutemen advise:

"Newspapers and television have pictured the Minutemen as a bunch of crackpots running around shooting off their guns without any idea of why they were doing it. This is exactly the type of person we don't want in our organization.

"We fully expect that we will have to fight in one way or another before victory is achieved... There is no place in this organization for bunglers, playboys or lukewarm conservatives. If you join the Minutemen, there might easily come a time that your life would depend on how completely some other member had learned his job."

Dues are \$2 per month. "Every member will be expected to buy his own gun, ammunition and other equipment."

In "practical security measures," new applicants are told:

- "Use deceptive measures," by subscribing to left wing periodicals or getting on "peace movement" mailing lists. "This will keep the postal inspectors guessing as to which side you are really on." Search this left-wing literature "for names and addresses of fellow travelers and forwarding this information for our Central Intelligence files."

- Use two envelopes in sending mail. Avoid a return address on the outer envelope. Use opaque material between envelopes to avoid infrared cameras.

- Use mail boxes or post offices "where you are not known."

- Avoid telephone calls to headquarters or other members. "Prepare telephone codes ahead of time for future protection."

- In recruiting new members, "make sure he is not an infiltrator, before you identify yourself as a member of the organization."

A "short history" of the group says:

"Our diplomatic war against communism has already been lost by bunglers or traitors within our own Government...

"... A pro-American Government could no longer be established by normal political means.

"... the minority vote blocks (sic), controlled labor unions, and corrupt political machines so completely monopolize the American political scene that there is no chance for the average American citizen to regain control of his own destiny at the ballot box."

They turned to guerrilla training, the history said, because guerrillas "can fight on for years, even for generations. Guerrilla bands can fight in the cities, country, forests, swamps, deserts or mountains. They are everywhere and yet nowhere. They strike without warning and vanish without a trace. They take away with them the arms, food and ammunition they will need to fight again another day."